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## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 8, 2019

Mr. Dennis Cafferty  
General Manager  
El Toro Water District  
P.O. Box 4000  
Laguna Hills, CA 92564-4000

### **REGIONAL WATER BOARD DESIGNATION TO REGULATE RECYLED WATER DISCHARGES FROM EL TORO WATER DISTRICT'S WATER RECYCLING PLANT**

Dear Mr. Cafferty:

This is in response to your November 29, 2016 letter to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Regional Water Board) and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Regional Water Board) requesting designation of a single Regional Water Board to regulate the recycled water discharge and distribution requirements associated with El Toro Water District's (ETWD's) Water Recycling Plant. The San Diego and Santa Ana Regional Water Boards have agreed to the designation of the Santa Ana Regional Water Board as the sole Regional Water Board responsible for regulating ETWD's Water Recycling Plant. The San Diego Regional Water Board previously memorialized this agreement in their May 5, 2017 letter to you.

As provided in Water Code section 13228(a), this letter constitutes the Santa Ana Regional Water Board's agreement (Agreement) to solely regulate treatment, use and distribution of recycled water from ETWD's Water Recycling Plant based on ETWD's request, considerations and other conditions as summarized below:

#### **Considerations:**

1. ETWD's 4 million gallon per day (MGD) Water Recycling Plant (WRP), in the City of Laguna Woods is physically located within the Santa Ana Regional Water Board boundary.

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WILLIAM RUH, CHAIR | HOPE SMYTHE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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3737 Main St., Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana)

2. Exhibit "A" of ETWD's November 29, 2016 letter shows the location of ETWD's water recycling plant and recycled water distribution pipelines within the boundaries of the San Diego and Santa Ana Regional Water Boards. ETWD's recycled water service area map shows that most of the recycled water distribution system is located within the Santa Ana Regional Water Board boundary.
3. Recycled water use from the WRP within the Aliso Hydrologic Sub-area was regulated, until May 8, 2019, under Order 97-52, *Waste Discharge and Water Recycling Requirements for the Production and Purveyance of Recycled Water by Member Agencies of the South Orange County Reclamation Authority*, a regional water recycling permit issued by the San Diego Regional Water Board.
4. Recycled water use from the WRP within the Irvine Groundwater Management Zone is regulated under *Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Reclamation Permit* Order No. R8-2015-0023, issued by the Santa Ana Regional Water Board.
5. According to ETWD's November 29, 2016 letter, once their Phase II recycled water project expansion is done, up to 1380 acre-feet per year (AFY) and 180 AFY of recycled water would be distributed within the Santa Ana and the San Diego Regional Water Boards boundaries respectively.
6. Exhibit "B" of ETWD's November 29, 2016 letter compared the annual averages of recycled water monitoring data for an 11-year period (2005 to 2015) for ETWD's WRP to the 12-month average effluents limits for recycled water discharges specified under San Diego Regional Water Board's Order 97-52. The recycled water monitoring data shows that ETWD complied with all effluent limits for the 11-year period reported in the letter. In addition, our review of effluent monitoring data submitted by the ETWD for their WRP for the last three years (2016-2018) indicate that ETWD has maintained compliance with effluents limits for recycled water discharges specified under San Diego Regional Water Board's Order 97-52.
7. Under these two permits, ETWD submitted reports regarding WRP in two different formats. ETWD's reporting efforts under the two permits will be simplified if recycled water discharge and distribution are regulated solely by the Santa Ana Regional Water Board.

#### **Conditions for the Santa Ana Regional Water Board Agreement to the Regional Water Board Designation**

1. Order No. R8-2015-0023 will be amended to incorporate the effluent limits specified under the San Diego Regional Water Board's Order No. 97-52, *Waste Discharge and Water Recycling Requirements for the Production and Purveyance of Recycled Water by Member Agencies of the South Orange*

*County Reclamation Authority.* This Agreement will become effective upon termination of ETWD's coverage under Order No. 97-52 and amendment of Order No-R8-2015-0023.

2. This Agreement only pertains to recycled water treatment, use and distribution from the ETWD's WRP. Secondary effluent from the WRP that discharges to the Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall will continue to be regulated by the San Diego Regional Water Board.
3. The Santa Ana Regional Water Board reserves the right, to modify or terminate this Agreement in the future, in consultation with the San Diego Regional Water Board, upon sufficient notice, and for good cause.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Julio C. Lara, Chief of the Wastewater Section, at (951) 782-4901.

Sincerely,

*/ original signed by*

Hope A Smythe  
Executive Officer  
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosure: Letter from San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, dated May 5, 2017

cc: Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, David W. Gibson  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, Roger Mitchell  
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Teresita Sablan  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Santa Ana Office – Oliver Pacifico  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Santa Ana Office – Faraz Asad  
Irvine Ranch Water District – Fiona Sanchez [Sanchezf@irwd.com](mailto:Sanchezf@irwd.com)  
South Orange County Wastewater Authority – Brennon Flahive [bflahive@socwa.com](mailto:bflahive@socwa.com)  
Orange County Sanitation District – Dindo Carrillo [dcarrillo@ocsd.com](mailto:dcarrillo@ocsd.com)  
Orange County Health Care Agency, Santa Ana – Lauren Robinson [lrobinson@ochca.com](mailto:lrobinson@ochca.com)  
Orange County Coastkeeper – Garry Brown [garry@coastkeeper.org](mailto:garry@coastkeeper.org)  
SPON, Newport Beach – Jack Skinner [info@SPON-NewportBeach.org](mailto:info@SPON-NewportBeach.org)

JCL/ETWD-Reg Water Board designation request agreement.docx ECM# 271777